

The following are the notes from the EPA Region 7 Pre-SFIREG conference call held on April 30, 2019.

The spring Pre-SFIREG meeting was held on April 30 by conference call, and was chaired by Tim Creger, current SLA representative for EPA Region 7 states. Representatives from all four states and the regional office of EPA participated. After greetings and introductions of participants, Tim turned the call over to EPA Region 7 for their update.

Wilfredo (Wilo) Rosado-Chaparro introduced himself as the acting FIFRA branch chief as Jamie Green was on rotation to the water enforcement branch for at least 120 days. Wilo provided an update of the regional realignment, indicating that it was effective as of April 28th, and is intended to standardize all ten regions with similar organizational structure to that of EPA Headquarters. Wilo indicated that the major change in the FIFRA program was that case reviewers had been moved to a separate enforcement branch, but that all other functions remained the same as before, other than minor name changes in branches and divisions.

State Updates:

- Iowa's legislature adjourned for the year on April 29, with a few bills involving pesticide issues not being moved out of committee or passed by the full legislative body. These bills included online applicator training and testing, pesticide drift risk assessments near schools, and fee increases. Legislation that did pass included a hemp bill that will impact IDALS and the pesticide program. Iowa's funding continues to decline from both federal and state sources, and with the increase in complaints due to dicamba, the program is severely challenged to continue in its current capacity. The program anticipates two more retirements this coming year with no promise of being able to fill those positions. There has also been an increase of 2,000 applicators in the last year, adding additional stress to both IDALS and Iowa State University Extension.
- Missouri is again fully staffed, having lost all but one inspector and two administrative staff in the last 18 months. The loss was primarily due to the impacts dicamba has had on the program. There is pending legislation that would increase product registration fees from \$150 per product to \$200 per product, and without those added fees the program is expected to become insolvent by 2020. Even with added restrictions for dicamba use, the state experienced an overall increase in the number of complaints in 2018, and expects a similar number of complaints in 2019.
- Kansas has recently hired a new inspector, with one open position yet to fill. The program is expecting a reduced number of field staff being available this summer for complaint response, which will only increase the work load of other inspectors. The pesticide program is discontinuing their association with Kelly Registration Systems and installing a system called AIMS, which will provide data management and online services. The pesticide program has also implemented online complaint intake forms and hopes that will both streamline the process as well as provide better service to the public. Due to the relabeling

of paraquat and dicamba, there have been significant overcrowding at a number of applicator certification sites, with increases of 20 to 30 percent. There has been legislation that increased the fertilizer registration fees but decreased pesticide registration fees, with an expected nominal impact on the overall program funding. A hemp production bill passed the legislature, and the program will be seeking assistance in providing pesticide oversight to those growers when the time comes. The state agricultural laboratory has announced they are building a new facility in Manhattan, and will move from Topeka by 2020.

- Nebraska's legislature passed the pesticide bill needed to revise certification standards for the new federal certification rule. Regulations needed for the certification plan will be drafted during the summer and proposed this fall. The program recently hired a new inspector to fill an open position due to retirement, and this brings them up to fully staffed at five inspectors. The legislature is closing in on passing a commercial hemp bill that has the governor's support, and it is anticipated the regulatory oversight will be absorbed by the agency in the noxious weed and seed program. Funding has remained static, with the legislature taking some funds from the fertilizer program for startup of both the industrial hemp law and a soil health advisory group. The program manager provided details on a unique issue that the agency has been working on over the

Enforcement/Investigatory / Ex. 7(a)

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 No other questions or discussion was made on the full SFIREG agenda topics.

EPA R7 briefed the group on the revised paraquat labels and online applicator training.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Creger, R7 SFIREG Representative